

Pastor's Message

5th SUNDAY OF LENT 2020



From the Womb to the Tomb and Vice Versa

Life is sometimes referred to as a journey from the womb to the tomb. We begin our existence within the confines of our mother and end up within the confines of mother earth. However, a good question to pose is: Is there a difference between the womb and the tomb? The gospel account of the Fifth Sunday of Lent shows us that maybe there isn't much difference at all.

As we celebrate the final Sunday before Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week, we are reminded of how Jesus summoned his friend Lazarus back to life from his tomb. Although a resuscitation, for Lazarus was restored to the same life he had, the incident is a clear preview of Jesus' resurrection. As such, upon heeding the command of Jesus' voice and exiting his burial site, Lazarus is born anew, bandages and all. The moral of the story is that, no matter what kind of hole we find ourselves stuck in, if we heed Jesus' command, we too will be born again.

Sometimes, as we well know, we can find ourselves confined in life. We are there now as we grapple with the restrictions of the current pandemic crisis. Our home can feel like a burial site as we lay there dead to many of our habitual recreational outings, patterns of life and customary surroundings. But are we in a tomb or might we be in a womb of sorts? It all depends on our willingness to hear the voice of Jesus and heed his commands. One thing is for sure – Jesus, the Master, doesn't waste opportunities to teach and comes to us as he did to Lazarus with some directions. He cries out instructions for how to handle our marriages, parent our children, appropriately respond to work, balance our time, take care of ourselves, and, yes, relate to him and the faith he has handed down to us as well. What is he creatively saying? Are we paying attention? Are we open to listening? More importantly, are we willing to respond? It's simple – how we answer these questions will determine if we will continue to feel confined and or be born anew.

Life is indeed a journey from the womb to the tomb. However, as the Fifth Sunday of Lent reminds us, when we hear the voice of Jesus and heed his call, it works the other way around as well.